rural areas, are Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana, Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana and Employment Assurance Scheme. In the urban areas, Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) is in operation since 1.12.97, which also seeks to provide gainful employment to the poor. Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana is being implemented as a central Plan Scheme to provide employment opportunities to educated unemployed youth in both rural and urban areas. These schemes have also helped in tackling the unemployment problem in Himachal Pradesh.

(c) Presently there is no such proposal under the consideration of the State Government.

(d) Does not arise.

Implementation of Bachawat Wage Board recommendations

2723. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that out of 1714 newspaper establishments in the country, 1043 establishments have not implemented so far the Bachawat Wage Board recommendations;

(b) if so, the reasons for tardy progress in implementation of the Bachawat Wage Board recommendations; and

(c) the steps taken by Government for effective implementation thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) As per information available, out of 1714 newspaper establishments in the country, 1043 had not implemented the recommendations of the last Wage Board i.e. Bachawat Wage Board. The slow progress in the implementation was due to the financial constraints, contract employment, small size units etc. In the meantime, the award of the new Wage Board *i.e.* Manisana Wage Board has been notified vide orders dated 5.12.2000 and 15.12.2000.

The implementation of the recommendations of the Wage Board is

the responsibility of the State Governments. All the States/UTs have, therefore, been asked to take steps for effective implementation of the Manisana Wage Board Award. They have been specifically advised to form State-level Tripartite Committees/Implementation Cells for speedy and effective implementation of the recommendations of the Wage Boards. The Ministry has also set up a Monitoring Committee to oversee the progress of implementation and ensure the same by way of pursuing the matter with the States/UTs.

Workers engaged in plucking tendu leaves

2724. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of workers engaged in plucking tendu leaves for Andhra Pradesh based bcedi factories as on date;

(b) how many of them are tribals; and

(c) what welfare measures Government have extended to them and what action Government propose to take to stop their exploitation by contractors and others?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) As per information received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh, 67,000 people are involved in collection of tendu leaves every year in Andhra Pradesh. About 30% of them are tribals. Collection of tendu leaves is done departmentally. A major social welfare scheme, 'Bcedi Leaf Scheme' in Telengana area which is being implemented by the Government of Andhra Pradesh is aimed at ensuring employment to the rural landless poor and tribals during the lean agricultural season (summer months). About Rs. 36 crore arc disbursed to tendu leaf collectors towards collection charges in this short span of 2 months of April & May. Besides the lives of these tendu leaf collectors arc insured for six months (March to September) each year under Group Personal Accident Insurance Policy for Rs. 10,000/- each.